

The Honorable Andrew Maynard February 8, 2013
The Honorable Antonio Guerrero
Co-Chairpersons, Transportation Committee
And Committee Members
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

RE: SB Bill 103: An Act Requiring Cyclists to Ride Single File on a Public Road

Dear Committee Members:

During hearings on this bill you will hear from many cyclists who are opposed. Most will probably recite important reasons why the bill is unneeded and why it will do nothing to protect cyclists.

But I would like to testify from the perspective of one cyclist, one user of our roads.

I am seventy-two years old and a long time cyclist – 45 years as an adult. I have ridden many tens of thousands of miles in a number of states and countries. There are very few, if any, localities that restrict cyclist to single file. Many states, as does ours, require cyclists to drop into single file in traffic. This is appropriate and good enough.

My wife, who is not an avid cyclist, and I sometimes ride flat low-traffic places that she enjoys, for example, the beach areas in Fairfield County or Lake Waramaug. To deny us the ability to ride side by side when we are not impeding traffic, as this proposed law does, seems unhelpful and mean spirited.

I urge you to reject this bill. It will do nothing useful, but instead will inflict harm not only on the sport of cycling but also on the use of cycling as transportation. I believe that I know whereof I write; my credentials below should certify this.

Regards

Ray Rauth, Weston
Member Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board and first Chairman
Member of the Steering Committee for the 2009 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Plan
Designer of the cross state bike network for the 2009 plan
Sound Cyclist Community Relations Representative for almost a decade (Founder of this board position)
Member Technical Advisory Committee for Route Seven Study
Cyclist advisor to the Norwalk Redevelopment Committee
Chair of the Weston Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Multi-term member of the Connecticut Bicycle Coalition Board
Member of the Merritt Parkway Trail Alliance
Weston's delegate to the SWRPA for Bike/Ped issues
Weston's delegate to the Connecticut Fund for the Environment's Transportation Choices Coalition
Member of the 2005 Advisory Board for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Member League of American Bicyclists, Member Adventure Cycling, Member Bike Walk Connecticut,
Etc.